(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, and

(c) the alternate arrangements made by IOC to keep its refineries operational at optimum level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (b) No, Sir. As per Production Sharing Contracts (PSC), crude oil available from Panna-Mukta, operated jointly by Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC), BG Exploration and Production India Limited (BGEPIL) and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) are being purchased by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), the nominee of Government of India.

There is no proposal or request with the Government to change the Government nominee under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for Panna-Mukta field.

(c) In view of the above, the question does not arise.

Use of Modern Technology in oil exploration

267. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sites where oil/gas exploration, both-on-shore and off-shore, is going on;

(b) the details of gas/oil reserves found recently; and

(c) the steps taken to use modern technology for bettering exploration success rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Exploration for Hydrocarbons is being carried out by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Oil India Limited (Oil) and Private/Joint Venture companies in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur 'Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram' Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal as well as offshore areas along the east and west coasts of India including deepwater area of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(b) During 2005-06, ONGC, OIL and Private/Joint ventures companies have made discoveries in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat and Rajasthan. The offshore discoveries are in the Krishna Godavari Basin, North East Coast and Mumbai offshore areas. Reserves from these discoveries are under appraisal.

(c) State-of-the art technologies for Hydrocarbons exploration have been/are being inducted in the fields of seismic data processing interpretation as well as drilling.

Tax Holiday for Petroleum Projects

268. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Greenfield Petroleum Projects are eligible for a 7 years tax holidays;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the companies which are currently benefited by this;

(d) whether it is also a fact that some Indian Companies are exporting Diesel, Kerosene and LPG; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Greenfield Petroleum Projects are eligible for 7 years tax holidays under Section 80 IB (9) of Income Tax Act, 1961. It *inter alia* provides that 100% deduction of profit for a period of 7 consecutive assessment years including initial assessment year is available to undertakings which begin commercial production or refining of mineral oil in the northeast region before 1st April 1997 and to undertakings located in any part of India beginning commercial production of mineral oil on or after 1st April, 1997. Provided further that where an undertaking is engaged in refining of mineral oil, it begins refining on or after 1st October, 1998.

(c) Amongst the oil PSUs, IOCL, ONGC, MRPL, NRL, CPL have availed/are entitled to claim benefits under the Income Tax Act.